

What is claimed is:

1. In a full-duplex communications system having at least one B PHY containing at least one port, a method for determining a path to a senior border comprising the acts of:

determining whether a B PHY has received a Self-ID packet without a Speed Code on at least one port; and

marking last said at least one port on said B PHY to receive a Self-ID packet without a Speed Code as the path to the senior border and canceling by said B PHY of any other ports within said node that have been marked as the path to the senior border node if said B PHY has received a Self-ID packet without a Speed Code on said at least one port.

2. A computer-readable medium containing instructions which, when executed by a computer, determine a path to a senior border node in a full-duplex communications system having at least one B PHY containing at least one port, by performing the acts of:

determining whether a B PHY has received a Self-ID packet without a Speed Code on at least one port; and

marking last said at least one port on said B PHY to receive a Self-ID packet without a Speed Code as the path to the senior border node and canceling by said B PHY of any other ports within said node that have been marked